

**State of California**  
**Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board**

**Minutes of the February 14, 2025 Board Meeting**

City of Loma Linda  
25541 Barton Road  
Loma Linda, CA 92354  
And via Video and Teleconference (Gov. Code, § 11123.2)

Chair Murray called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Break: 11:16 a.m.- 11:28 a.m.

Chair Murray adjourned the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

Court Reporter recorded items: 1, 4, 5, 7, \*8, \*9, \*10, 11, 12, and 13.

**Item 1. Introductions and Declaration of Quorum**

*Information pertaining to this item is contained in a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.*

\*\*\*Indicates that attendance was virtual.

**Board Members Present at Board Meeting**

Kris A. Murray, Chair  
John Scandura, Vice Chair  
William “Bill” Ruh, Board Member  
Letitia Clark, Board Member\*\*\*  
Gloria Alvarado, Board Member  
Sixto “ Al” Lopez, Board Member

**Board Members Absent at Board Meeting**

None

**Staff Present at Board Meeting**

Jayne Joy, Executive Officer  
Eric Lindberg, Assistant Executive Officer  
Jessica Baenre, Board Clerk  
Nick Amini, Branch Manager, Surface Water and Agriculture Branch  
Jagroop Khela, Branch Manager, Planning, Implementation and Permitting Branch  
Dan Mefford, Information Technology Specialist I  
Don Nguyen, Information Technology Associate  
Lauren Briggs, Senior Environmental Scientist, Basin Planning Inland Waters  
Adam Fischer, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor), Municipal Stormwater Unit  
Raj Rajen, Water Resource Control Engineer, Municipal Stormwater Unit  
Michelle Beckwith, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor), General Stormwater Unit  
Terri Reeder, Senior Environmental Geologist (Supervisor), Basin Planning Coastal Waters

Celina Rong, Environmental Scientist, Regional Planning Programs  
Cassidy Lunetta, Environmental Scientist, Regional Planning Programs

State Water Board Present at Board Meeting

Lori Okun, Regional Board Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel  
Dorene D'Adamo, State Water Board Liaison, State Water Resources Control Board\*\*\*  
David Lancaster, Attorney III, Office of Chief Counsel\*\*\*

Court Reporter Present at Board Meeting

Marlee Nelson\*\*\*

Public Attendance Present at Board Meeting

Amanda Carr, County of Orange  
Jarb Thaipejr, City of Loma Linda  
Nate Smith, City of Banning  
Raul Gutierrez Urrutia, San Bernardino County  
Tricia Vivian, San Bernardino County Flood Control District  
Rae Beimer, City of Moreno Valley  
Devin Slaven, City of Lake Forest  
Alex Waite, City of Tustin  
Any Kwan, BBK  
Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP  
Steve Wolosoff, GEI Consultants\*\*\*  
Pat Boldt, Western Riverside County Agriculture Coalition\*\*\*  
James Klang, Western Riverside County Agriculture Coalition\*\*\*  
Ray Hiemstra, Orange County Coastkeeper\*\*\*  
John Rudolph\*\*\*  
Alexandra Neal, Exponent\*\*\*

**Item 2. Public Forum**

Jarb Thaipejr, City Manager, Public Works Director, and City Engineer for the City of Loma Linda, requested that the MS4 Permit for San Bernardino County be kept the same.

**Item 3. State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Liaison Report**

State Water Board Member Dorene D'Adamo provided an update on the following:

Response to the Los Angeles Wildfires

The Division of Drinking Water has been providing technical support to impacted water systems, advising on drinking water notices and inspecting the damage.

Emergency Program staff have been deployed to the California Office of Emergency Services Debris Removal Taskforce; they will work on removing household debris and mitigating post-fire debris flow and contaminated runoff.

State Water Board Staff are supporting interagency coordination and external communications.

State and Regional Board Staff are supporting recovery efforts and advising on best management practices to protect water quality during the debris removal process.

#### Making Conservation a California Way of Life

The regulation for indoor and outdoor water use efficiency took effect on January 1, 2025. Urban retail water suppliers are now required to submit an annual urban water use report by January 1st of each year. Ms. D'Adamo reported that 75% of the urban retail water suppliers submitted their reports on time.

#### Cost Reporting for Municipal Storm Water Permits

The State Water Board has been developing standardized cost reporting for municipal stormwater permits. On January 22, 2025, the State Water Board approved the new policy. Municipal Separate Stormwater System Permittees are now required to track their permit implementation costs across specified categories and report this information on a cost data portal. The policy is currently awaiting approval from the Office of Administrative Law and is expected to take effect on April 1, 2025.

#### Wastewater Needs Assessment

The State Water Board has a Wastewater Needs Assessment advisory group that last met on January 24, 2025. Their role is to advise the project development on specific phase one tasks, identify at-risk definitions, and provide other expertise.

#### Bay Delta Plan

The State Water Board completed the last workshop in January 2025. Staff are working on technical areas with the stakeholder community, the Department of Water Resources, and the Bureau of Reclamation in workgroup meetings.

#### Urban Storm Water Infiltration

Last week, State Water Board staff held two informal public workshops to provide an opportunity for public discussion and feedback on a proposed statewide water quality control policy for urban stormwater infiltration.

#### 2026 California Integrated Report

On February 11, 2025, State Water Board staff held a remote public workshop to provide an overview of the 2026 California Integrated Report, State Water Board and Regional Board staff were available to answer questions.

#### Administrative Hearings Office

The hearing for the Delta Conveyance Project will begin on February 18, 2025.

The Sites Reservoir Petition hearings have resumed.

#### Sustainable Groundwater Management

On February 20, 2025, the State Water Board will have a public hearing to consider designating the Kern Sub-Basin as a probationary basin under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

#### Office of Public Engagement, Equity and Tribal Affairs

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As of December 2024, the Office of Public Participation has transitioned to the newly formed Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) Meeting

The annual WQCC meeting is scheduled for May 1 and 2, 2025, in Sacramento.

Board Members asked questions and provided comments.

**Item 4. Election of Santa Ana Water Board Officers for 2025**

*Information pertaining to this item is contained in a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.*

The nominating committee, made up of Board Members Ruh and Lopez, met to discuss the election of Board Officers for 2025. They recommended that Ms. Kris Murray be reelected as Chair and Mr. John Scandura be reelected as Vice Chair.

Chair Murray asked the Board Members for a motion and asked Board Clerk Ms. Baenre for a roll call vote.

*Motion: It was moved by Board Member Ruh, seconded by Board Member Clark, to elect Ms. Kris Murray to serve as Chair, and to elect Mr. John Scandura to serve as Vice Chair for 2025.*

Roll call vote: Board Member Lopez- Aye, Board Member Alvarado- Aye, Board Member Clark- Aye, Board Member Ruh- Aye, Vice Chair Scandura- Aye, Chair Murray- Aye.

**Item 5. Regional Board Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2024**

*Information pertaining to this item is contained in a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.*

Chair Murray asked the Board Members for a motion and asked Board Clerk Ms. Baenre for a roll call vote.

*Motion: It was moved by Vice Chair Scandura, seconded by Board Member Lopez, and the Regional Board Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2024 were approved as presented by roll call vote.*

Roll call vote: Board Member Lopez- Aye, Board Member Alvarado- Aye, Board Member Clark- Aye, Board Member Ruh- Aye, Vice Chair Scandura- Aye, Chair Murray- Aye.

**Item 6. Racial Equity**

Jayne Joy, Executive Officer, will provide a racial equity update at the next Regional Board meeting.

**Item 7. Consideration of the Consent Calendar items are listed with an asterisk**

*Information pertaining to this item is contained in a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.*

Item \*8. Waste Discharge Requirements for Sunset Crossing TTM 38443 Project; R8-2025-0007

Item \*9. Waste Discharge Requirements for Sunset Crossing TTM 38442 Project; R8-2025-0008

Item \*10. Waste Discharge Requirements for Green Tree Project; R8-2025-0011

Item \*11. Waste Discharge Requirements for Pilot Scale In-Situ Remediation of Deep Vadose Zone and Groundwater at All Metals Processing of Orange County, 8401 Standustrial Street, Stanton; R8-2025-0013

Chair Murray asked the Board Members for a motion and asked Board Clerk Ms. Baenre for a roll call vote.

*Motion: It was moved by Board Member Lopez, seconded by Board Member Alvarado, and Order Number R8-2025-0007, Order Number R8-2025-0008, Order Number R8-2025-0011, and Order Number R8-2025-0013 were approved as presented by roll call vote.*

Roll call vote: Board Member Lopez- Aye, Board Member Alvarado- Aye, Board Member Clark- Aye, Board Member Ruh- Aye, Vice Chair Scandura- Aye, Chair Murray- Aye.

**Item 12. Basin Plan Amendment to Revise the Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Loads for Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake; R8-2025-0014**

*Information pertaining to this item is contained in a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.*

Chair Murray opened the public hearing and noted that staff received several hundred pages of comments, which require additional time for review and response. Chair Murray stated that the Board will not take any action on this item.

This item was presented by regional board staff Lauren Briggs, Senior Environmental Scientist, Steve Wolosoff from GEI Consultants, and Tess Dunham from Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP.

Ms. Briggs explained that the Basin Plan Amendment's purpose is to reopen and revise the Nutrient TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads) for Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake. Ms. Briggs outlined several reasons for updating the 2004 Nutrient TMDLs, which include changes in land use and watershed conditions, new water quality regulations, and the availability of updated scientific data. Although the current TMDLs from 2004 have been met on a 10-year average, the in-lake numeric targets have not yet been achieved.

Ms. Briggs discussed that in 2005, the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force were formed to coordinate and share the cost of all implementation efforts. The task force is comprised of dischargers identified in the TMDLs, which includes municipal separate storm sewer system permits, wastewater treatment plants, agricultural operators, confined

animal facilities, and other state, federal, or tribal agencies that own land and operate facilities that discharge to the watershed. The Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watershed Authority (LESJWA) serves as the administrator for the task force; LESJWA is a joint powers authority entrusted with state and local funds to improve water quality and wildlife habitats in Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake, and the surrounding watershed.

Ms. Briggs discussed several justifications for revising the TMDL. In 2015, the Task Force requested a revision due to changes in the watershed, new regulations, and updated scientific data. Between 2018 and 2024, revisions were conducted alongside public workshops and scientific peer reviews. The Santa Ana Water Board agreed to revise the TMDLs, and the TMDL Task Force accepted the responsibility of developing the necessary information and documentation.

Mr. Wolosoff, Project Manager and Senior Water Quality Specialist at GEI Consultants, has provided technical support to the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Task Force for 14 years. He has served as the technical lead in developing the proposed revision to the nutrient TMDL in 2024. In his presentation, Mr. Wolosoff discussed several key areas in detail, including the TMDL Revision Reference Watershed Approach, revised TMDL reference allocations, revised TMDL allocation for Canyon Lake, revised TMDL allocations for Lake Elsinore, the linkage analysis of the revised TMDLs, and the numeric targets associated with the revised TMDLs.

Ms. Dunham, from Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP, serves as the regulatory facilitator for the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Task Force. Ms. Dunham highlighted several collective activities that the task force has undertaken over the last 20 years:

1. Conducts comprehensive watershed and in-lake monitoring.
2. Provides resources to ensure implementation of in-lake water quality controls.
3. Works closely with the Santa Ana Water Board to address nutrient impairments by updating TMDLs.
4. Conducts studies to better understand lake dynamics.
5. Evaluates impacts of watershed and in-lake controls on water quality in the lakes.
6. Conducts extensive fishery studies.
7. Uses the best available science to identify appropriate water quality criteria to protect the beneficial uses of both Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake.

Ms. Dunham discussed the four overarching goals of the revised TMDL:

1. Identify and manage controllable watershed sources of nutrients that flow into Canyon Lake and Lake Elsinore.
2. Identify long-lasting in-lake controls that address sediment fluxes and dissolved oxygen levels for protection of aquatic life and recreational beneficial uses.
3. Identify appropriate water quality criteria for protecting beneficial uses in two dynamic lake systems.
4. Provide controllable sources with a reasonable pathway for attaining TMDLs, which results in meeting water quality standards.

Ms. Dunham also discussed the phasing of nutrient TMDLs for Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake, nutrient offsets through in-lake controls, compliance demonstration options, specific

provisions for Elsinore Valley's recycled water additions to Lake Elsinore, and periodic TMDL reconsideration.

Ms. Briggs stated that a 30-year timeline is needed because Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake have unique hydrology and complex characteristics, water quality will be evaluated as 10-year averages to account for wet/dry cycles, and time is needed for adaptive management due to data uncertainties.

Ms. Briggs mentioned that the public comment period was 45 days (from December 26, 2024, to February 10, 2025), that an errata sheet was issued on January 17, 2025, to include clarifying language, and that two comment letters were received from the City of Banning and the Western Riverside County Agriculture Coalition. Staff will prepare formal responses to the comments received, and this item will be presented at a future Board meeting for consideration and adoption.

### Public Comment

Nathan Smith from the City of Banning presented his concerns regarding the impacts and challenges associated with the Basin Plan Amendment. He made four specific requests to the Regional Board and the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Task Force:

1. Remove the City of Banning as a responsible party with this Basin Plan Amendment.
2. Direction to the Task Force to complete the de minimus criteria in the prescribed 3-year timeframe.
3. Direction to the Task Force to remain engaged with the City of Banning staff during de minimus preparation and evaluation.
4. Direction to the Task Force to re-evaluate the City of Banning's stormwater quality and, if necessary, prepare a separate Basin Plan Amendment to include the City of Banning as a future action.

Ray Hiemstra, Associate Director of Orange County Coastkeeper, discussed the timeline for the TMDL and stated that a 30-year duration is too long.

Pat Boldt, Western Riverside County Agriculture Coalition (WRCAC), discussed multiple concerns that have also been provided as formal written comments.

James Klang from WRCAC mentioned that detailed comments were submitted addressing various issues from multiple perspectives. Mr. Klang also discussed staff responses to the peer review comments.

Nathan Smith submitted a comment letter on behalf of Banning Mayor Sheri Flynn, who could not attend the Board meeting.

Board Members provided comments and asked questions.

Lori Okun, Regional Board counsel, addressed the written comment letter submitted. Ms. Okun stated that the comment period closed on February 10, 2025, and recommended that the letter not be accepted, but also recommended that Mr. Nathan Smith read the letter into the record.

Nathan Smith read important points from the comment letter aloud for the record.

Board Members provided additional comments and asked additional questions.

Chair Murray closed the hearing.

**Item 13. Extension of Time Schedule Order (TSO), Order R8-2019-0055, for the County of Orange and the Cities of Tustin, Irvine, Laguna Hills, Costa Mesa, Santa Ana, Orange, Lake Forest, and Newport Beach to comply with the Requirements Prescribed in Order R8-2009-0030, as amended by Order R8-2010-0062 (NPDES Permit No. CAS618030); R8-2025-0003**

*Information pertaining to this item is contained in a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.*

Break: 11:16 a.m.- 11:28 a.m.

Chair Murray called the public hearing to order.

This item was presented by Raj Rajen, Water Resource Control Engineer in the Municipal Stormwater Unit.

Mr. Rajen's presentation covered several key topics, including the background and timeline, the Time Schedule Order (TSO), and the rationale for extending the TSO. He also presented fecal coliform data from the 2020 and 2023 Annual Reports, shared insights from a staff tour of five structural best management practices, outlined the objectives for the proposed TSO extension, and provided conclusions and next steps.

Mr. Rajen explained that the Waste Discharge Requirements Order R8-2009-0030 and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit No. CAS618030 are currently in effect. However, there are two compliance issues: first, water quality-based effluent limitations for fecal coliform in Newport Bay are not being met at all monitoring locations; second, these limitations are based on waste load allocations related to the beneficial use of water contact recreation and shellfish harvesting.

Mr. Rajen stated that the purpose of the TSO is to attain compliance with existing permits, specify the tasks and corrective actions with compliance deadlines, and require final permit compliance after three years. Mr. Rajen mentioned several reasons for extending the TSO, including adaptive approaches developed to prioritize, identify, and control sources of fecal coliform; the Big Canyon watershed structural controls are under construction and require additional time to complete; and sources continue to be identified that may require enhanced coordination among multiple jurisdictions to implement source control measures.

Mr. Rajen explained that the objectives of the proposed TSO extension are to allow additional time for ongoing source identification and control, as well as to continue reporting. He reviewed the four tasks outlined in TSO R8-2019-0050 and the four tasks in TSO R8-2023-0063. The proposed 2025 TSO Amendment includes two new tasks:



1. Task 9 will focus on the ongoing monitoring and identification of fecal coliform sources, along with implementing control measures using an approved adaptive strategy. Additionally, this task will prioritize actions based on established levels and GIS models.
2. Task 10 aims to enhance reporting requirements by introducing six-month summaries and annual reports.

Mr. Rajen explained that key deadlines and milestones include a six-month summary report due by March 31 of each year, a detailed annual report due by September 1 of each year, and to achieve full compliance by December 6, 2027.

Lori Okun, Regional Board Counsel, stated that Board Member Clark recused herself from this item as a precaution. The City of Tustin is named in this order, and Board Member Clark previously served on the Tustin City Council.

#### Public Comment

Ray Hiemstra, representing Orange County Coastkeeper and Inland Empire Waterkeeper, expressed his satisfaction that the extension is limited to three years. He appreciated the inclusion of six-month reports and an annual review. However, Mr. Hiemstra noted that there has been minimal direct investment in bacteria best management practices and expressed doubt about whether compliance will be achieved. He emphasized the need for urgency in ensuring that heavily recreational areas remain clean.

Amanda Carr, Deputy Director for OC Environmental Resources, representing the County, the Flood Control District, and MS4 Permittees within the watershed, expressed her support for the work done by the staff. Ms. Carr also clarified that the County of Orange is actively participating in projects and is engaged in ongoing conversations and meetings with the City of Newport.

Board Members provided comments and asked questions.

Chair Murray stated: on proposed adoption of order R8-2025-0003 to extend time schedule order R8-2019-0055 to extend the schedule for compliance with fecal coliform effluent limitations for discharges to the Newport Bay watershed, specific tasks are required to be continued by the permittees during the proposed extension.

Chair Murray asked the Board Members for a motion to include the errata sheet and asked Board Clerk Ms. Baenre for a roll call vote.

*Motion: It was moved by Board Member Alvarado, seconded by Board Member Lopez, and Order Number R8-2025-0003 with the errata sheet was approved as presented by roll call vote.*

Roll call vote: Board Member Lopez- Aye, Board Member Alvarado- Aye, Board Member Ruh- Aye, Vice Chair Scandura- Aye, Chair Murray- Aye.

Board Member Clark recused herself from this item and did not vote.

**Item 14. Stormwater Enforcement Overview**

*Information pertaining to this item is contained in a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.*

This item was presented by regional board staff Michelle Beckwith, Senior Environmental Scientist in the General Stormwater Unit.

Ms. Beckwith provided an overview of the Santa Ana Water Board's in-process stormwater violations, for which monetary penalties were assessed and issued during the 2022 through 2025 fiscal years.

Ms. Beckwith shared the following data:

**FY 22/23**

**Industrial General Permit**

- Annual Report Notices of Non-Compliance: 247
- Permit Coverage Non-Filer: 1 EPL (\$5,497)
- Administrative Civil Liability 1 (\$170,080)
- TMDL NEL Exceedances: 22 EPLs totaling \$480,000 (ranging from \$3,000 - \$78,000)
- WQBCA Non-Submittals: 17 13383 Orders
- Time Schedule Order: 1
- Notices of Violation: 531
- Inspections: 423

**Scrap Metal Permit**

- 13267 Investigative Order: 1

**Construction General Permit**

- Annual Report Notices of Non-Compliance: 480
- Annual Report Non-Filer: 6 EPLs (ranging from \$1,371 - \$2,538)
- Annual Report Non-Filer: 1 MMP (\$4,655)
- Inspections: 495

**FY 23/24**

**Industrial General Permit**

- Annual Report Notices of Non-Compliance: 247
- Annual Report Non-Filer: 4 EPLs (\$1,382 each)
- Permit Coverage Non-Filer: 2 EPLs (\$5,661 - \$5,998)
- TMDL NEL Exceedances: 24 EPLs (\$3,000 - \$93,000)
- WQBCA Non-Submittals: 15 13383 Orders
- 13267 Investigation Order: 1
- Notices of Violation: 185
- Inspections: 336

**Scrap Metal Permit**

- Administrative Civil Liability: 1 (\$2,020,282)

#### Construction General Permit

- Annual Report Notices of Non-Compliance: 345
- Annual Report Non-Filer: 3 EPLs (\$1,588 - \$4,655)
- Annual Report Non-Filer: 1 MMP (\$4,165)
- Permit Coverage Non-Filer: 1 EPL (\$6,170)
- Administrative Civil Liability: 1 (\$321,643.88)
- Inspections: 471

#### FY 24/25\*

#### Industrial General Permit

- Annual Report Notices of Non-Compliance: 191
- Annual Report Non-Filer: 4 EPLs (\$1,435 each)
- Permit Coverage Non-Filer: 1 MMP (\$7,376)
- TMDL NEL Exceedances: 1 EPL (\$45,000)

#### Construction General Permit

- Annual Report Notices of Non-Compliance: 522
- Annual Report Non-Filer: 29 EPLs (\$1,635 each)
- Annual Report Non-Filer: 1 MMP (\$2,779)

Assistant Executive Officer Eric Lindberg provided comments.

Board Members asked questions and provided comments.

#### **Item 15. Executive Officer's Report**

Ms. Joy submitted a report summarizing the key accomplishments of the Santa Ana Water Board for the 2024 calendar year.

#### **Item 16. Board Member and Executive Officer Communications**

##### Board Member Lopez

Thanked staff for the presentations.

Attended a tour of the Lake Matthews reservoir with a group of local water officials that was sponsored by the Riverside County Water Task Force.

Attended a ceremony in the City of Cal Mesa with Executive Officer Joy for the completion of a clean and reliable water supply to a local mobile home park.

##### Board Member Alvarado

Thanked the public for comments and thanked staff.

Stated that the Water Board is here to listen and learn.

##### Board Member Ruh

Thanked the public for attending.

##### Vice Chair Scandura

Thanked Board Members for being reelected to serve as Vice Chair for the year.

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Board Member Clark

Thanked staff from the state and Santa Ana Water Board for their efforts to continue to uplift equity and access.

Chair Murray

Thanked Board Members for being reelected to serve as Chair for the year.

**Closed Session**

No closed session.

**Adjournment**

Chair Murray adjourned the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

**JAYNE JOY, P.E.**

Executive Officer

*/jb*